



**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF NEW MARLBOROUGH
OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
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**Michele Shalaby, Chair
Nathaniel H. Yohalem
Tara B. White
Board of Selectmen**

**Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, March 7, 2016
6 p.m.**

Board Members Present: Michele Shalaby, Chair
Nathaniel Yohalem
Tara B. White

Others Present: Mari Enoch, Town Administrator
Sharon Fleck, Administrative Secretary
Tom Stalker
Richard Long

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen convened at 6:07 p.m. The minutes were read. A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve the minutes of the February 29, 2016 meeting, as amended.

Clayton Mill River Concrete Culvert Bid

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to accept the bid from Concrete Systems, Hudson, New Hampshire for the Clayton Mill River Road Culvert for \$99,836.00. (Michele Shalaby recused herself from the vote.)

Town Administrator Updates

MassDOT will host a hearing for public comment on the Hadsell Street bridge project. The hearing will take place at Town Hall on Wednesday, April 6 at 7 p.m. The bidding process will be this fall with anticipated completion of the bridge in summer 2017. Bryan Slack, MassDOT Right-of-Way Bureau, is working with the Town regarding acquisitions of land, temporary easements and permanent easements which are needed for the project.

The Board of Selectmen agreed to continue with Carbonite for cloud storage of Town computer-generated documents. The total cost for one year is \$719.99, after a 20% discount.

Mari reported that Maguire Equipment, Inc. will be called due to the overheating of the single-stream compactor at the Transfer Station.

Selectmen's Updates

A letter of interest has been received from John Miller who would like to be appointed to the newly-formed Agricultural Commission.

School Budget – There have been three separate meetings to discuss the school budget:

- Selectmen from all five towns met to discuss the school budget. The next step will be to request another meeting with Dave Hastings.
- Town Administrator, Mari Enoch, along with Selectman, Tara White, and Select Chair, Michele Shalaby, met with Dave Hastings, Vito Valentini, Fran Lartigue, Bonnie Silver and Bruce Turner to discuss New Marlborough's assessment of the school budget. Another meeting will be set after additional research is completed.
- A meeting of the school Finance Sub-committee was held March 3 to discuss the budget. Selectman, Tara White, expressed the need for a five-year plan from the Finance Committee.

Selectman, Nat Yohalem, expressed concern about the \$25,000 in the capital budget for the Egremont School, plus "other capital" for over \$30,000.

Broadband

Select Chair, Michele Shalaby, advised she had a meeting with representatives Alice Boyd from Sandisfield and Steve Weisz Monterey to discuss possible semi-regionalization. Tyringham and Tolland will also be contacted to determine interest. Otis is in negotiations and has signed a non-disclosure and is unable to participate at this time.

Tom Stalker would like to put together "notes" on the broadband tab on the Town website to update citizens on the project. Tom is also going to attend a meeting in Hawley regarding meeting with MBI.

FY17 Budget

The Selectmen began discussing the FY17 preliminary budget as a whole. The wish list budget totaled a 10 per cent increase in the Town's operating budget, using a 2 per cent COLA increase for employees. Budget lines that are non-negotiable, or fixed, were noted

and differentiated from line items that can be changed. A capital spreadsheet was also presented. The Selectmen will continue budget discussions next meeting.

Being that there was no further business to be brought before the Board, a motion was made, seconded and so voted by all members to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Fleck
Administrative Secretary